



THE EUROPEAN FARRIER IN THE 21ST CENTURY

Final approved version of the new European Farrier in the 21st Century standards (AGM Saumur 15/11/2008)

1. Qualification
2. Units
3. Performance criteria
4. Basic standards
5. Knowledge requirements

THE EUROPEAN FARRIER IN THE 21ST CENTURY

Qualification

The qualification consists of the skills, the knowledge and the attitudes required to practice the profession

Units

The units are the parts of the qualification

Performance criteria

The performance criteria describe what you see the person is actually doing

Qualification

The basic standards of the qualification of a European farrier

Units

- A. Equine knowledge
- B. Determine care requirements of the equine foot
- C. Maintain tools
- D. Produce and modify shoes
- E. Shoeing and trimming equine feet
- F. Health, safety and security

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A. Equine knowledge

Performance criteria

The student can:

1. Correctly identify an equine to be moved, and move them carefully using an appropriate method
2. Approach and control an equine in a manner which is likely to eliminate stress and alarm any time the equine is handled
3. Assess the gait of the equine and its relationship to its conformation
4. Use the correct equipment properly in relation to the situation, the equine and its temperament
5. Adopt working methods which promote good professional ethics and are consistent and relevant to legislation and codes of practice

B. Determine care requirements of the equine foot

Performance criteria

The student can:

1. Discuss the condition of the equine and agree the shoeing requirements with the person in charge of the equine
2. Clean the feet, examine and accurately assess their condition
3. Propose a foot care and shoeing plan which takes account of all needs of the equine
4. Agree and if appropriate amend the proposed foot care and shoeing plan with the person in charge of the equine following examination of the hoof and again after shoeing
5. Advise the person in charge of the equine of any variations from the usual foot care plan and consult the veterinary surgeon when conditions exceed the students expertise and authority

C. Maintain tools

Performance criteria

The student can

1. Form sections to meet the specification, using appropriate techniques
2. Keep the tools a serviceable condition
3. Check tools are fit for the purpose they are to be used for and rectify any deficiencies
4. Carry out routine maintenance on equipment in accordance with instructions
5. Identify the need for advice and assistance and seek this from the relevant person

D. Produce and modify shoes

Performance criteria

Produce basic shoes

The student can:

1. Select appropriate materials and tools for the shoes to be made
2. Maintain the fire at the temperature necessary to work the materials selected
3. Cut sections of metal to suitable lengths for the manufacture of the specified shoe
4. Handle materials safely using the appropriate tongs
5. Form sections to meet the specification, using appropriate forging techniques
6. Check the finished item against the specification and make adjustments where required to meet the specification

Modify shoes

The student can:

7. Check equipment is safe and fit for use
8. Take action to correct faulty and unsafe equipment

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9. Present materials fit for the purpose of the fabrication to the welding operation
10. Work materials to incorporate ancillary features in accordance with the specification
11. Check the output conforms to the specification and correct it if necessary

Ancillary features

1. Rolled toe
2. Stud holes
3. Plain stamped nails extra the fullering
4. Square toe
5. Basic bar shoe

E. Shoeing equine feet

Performance criteria

Remove shoes and assess wear

The student can:

1. Remove shoes safely using tools appropriate for their task
2. Examine the shoe and assess the state of wear on all surfaces
3. Advise the person in charge of the equine of any need to adjust the foot care and shoeing plan as a result of the state of wear of the old shoe

Trimming equine feet

The student can:

4. Select tools which are suitable for the work to be carried out
5. Trim the hooves safely in accordance with the agreed foot care plan
6. Balance the feet of the equine in accordance with the condition, needs and conformation of the equine
7. Amend the agreed foot care plan in consultation with the person in charge of the equine, to take account of conditions in the feet which were not previously identifiable if appropriate

Fit shoes

The student can:

8. Select shoes of the correct type, material and size
9. Select tools fit for the purpose of fitting shoes
10. Shape selected shoes incorporating ancillary features as determined by the foot care and shoeing plan
11. Fit the shoe to the shape and size of the foot as determined with the foot care and shoeing plan to achieve the final fit
12. Add any ancillary features to the shoe as determined by the needs of the equine

Attach shoes and finish the shoeing process

The student can:

13. Select tools and nails fit for the purpose of attaching and finishing shoes
14. Attach the shoe safely, securely and in the correct position according to the foot care and shoeing plan
15. Finish the hoof according to the specification
16. Assess finished job and welfare of horse
17. Assess its soundness when moving
18. Inform the person in charge of the equine of the actions taken and advise on the equine future foot care requirements

F. Health, safety and security

Performance criteria

Human and equine

The student can and must

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1. Determine the risks of the operation (risk assessment)
2. Use relevant personal protective equipment at all times according to local regulations
3. Maintain the health, safety and welfare of the equine, self and others throughout the process
4. Adopt a working position to ensure personal and equine comfort is achieved

Equipment and area

The student can and must

5. Maintain the working environment and equipment to a standard of health, safety and security which is consistent with good practice and legal requirements
6. Handle materials safely using the appropriate tools
7. Carry out cleaning routines regularly and effectively
8. Use equipment and materials in accordance with manufacturers instructions
9. Keep the area free from waste at all times and dispose of waste safely in the designated area

European standards

Basic shoe (Unit D)

The student must be able to make a basic shoe.

Basic shoe elements

1. The shoe has at least six nail holes
2. The nail size and type is appropriate to the material section
3. The nail position is forward of the widest part of the shoe with the correct angle
4. The distance between the nail holes and the outside edge is appropriate to the section and size of the shoe
5. The shoe is hand fullered
6. The heels are finished appropriate to the task and without sharp edges
7. The shoe has at least one clip
8. The shoe is, when finished, level on the foot surface

Modifications

6. Rolled toe
7. Stud holes
8. Plain stamped nails extra the fullering
9. Square toe
10. Basic bar shoe

Trimming (Unit E)

Any equine should be assessed and trimmed as an individual and its own conformation

The standards are:

1. The hoof is level
2. A correct medio-lateral balance imposes minimum strain on digital joints; for that purpose the trimming shouldn't modify the inter phalangeal axis when the horse is standing on its feet, the axis which can be observed when the foot is kept in the air.
2. A correct hoof pastern axis imposes minimum strain on digital joints; for that purpose the trimming shouldn't modify the hoof pastern axis when the equine is standing on its feet.
3. The solar surface is close to symmetrical
4. The length of the hoof wall is safe for the application of the shoe
5. The hoof wall is not flared
6. The sole and the frog must be cleaned but kept strong

Basic shoeing (Unit E)

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The standards are:

1. The shoeing is safe and does not cause discomfort or lameness
2. The shoe is of an appropriate weight and section to fulfill its tasks
3. The shoe conforms the shape of the hoof and is fitted for length and expansion
4. After shoeing the shoe is level on the bearing surface
5. The clip(s) fit to the hoof wall
6. The shoe is fitted with no sole pressure
7. The centre of the shoe conforms to the centre of the hoof
8. The nails fit correctly in the shoe section
9. The nails are put in sound horn
10. The clenches and the hoof wall are finished smoothly
11. The clenches are of reasonable height and in a straight line

Knowledge requirements

A. Equine knowledge

Generalities

1. Breeds
2. Colours and marking
3. General marks of good health
4. Non pathological qualities and defects
5. Ethology (behaviour)
6. Activities

Equine care

7. Health care
8. Feeding
9. Habitat
10. Restraining
11. Sedatives
12. Reportable diseases

Functional anatomy

13. Skeleton (basic knowledge)
14. Joints
15. Main muscular groups (basic knowledge)
16. Distal limb functional anatomy below the knee and hock (skeleton, ligaments, tendons, blood circulation system, nervous system, cartilages, synovial bursae, sensitive foot, horny box)
17. Gaits

Pathologies of distal limbs (description, aetiology, management, shoes mainly used)

18. Osteo - articular system pathologies
19. Desmitis
20. Tendinitis
21. Podotrochlear syndrome
22. Laminitis
23. Other foot pathologies

Limbs conformations

24. Generality
25. Conformations
26. Front limbs deformities
27. Hind limbs deformities
28. Foot and finger deformities

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B. Determine care requirements of the equine foot

- 29. Care of the limbs
- 30. Hoof care
- 31. Communication (with the person in charge)

C. Maintain tools

Materials and equipment

- 32. Tools relevant to the task
- 33. Materials relevant to the task
- 34. Properties of the materials
- 35. Working parameters of the equipment
- 36. Maintenance of tools and equipment

Working methods

- 37. Forging techniques
- 38. Hardening techniques
- 39. Annealing techniques
- 40. Sharpening techniques

D. Produce and modify shoes

Producing shoes by forging

Basic shoes (standard)

Welding process and equipment by any one of the following:

- 41. Gas
- 42. Arc (electric)
- 43. Fire

E. Shoeing or trimming equine feet

Planning

- 44. Pull the shoes off
- 45. Assessment of shoe wear and hoof state
- 46. Foot care and shoeing plan

Trimming (assessment, realization, standards)

- 47. Length
- 48. Balance
- 49. Level
- 50. Wall rasping
- 51. Frog and sole cleaning

Shoe preparation

- 52. Shaping
- 53. Level
- 54. Ancillary features and modifications
- 55. Clips
- 56. Balance
- 57. Rasping and finish

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Shoeing

- 58. Fitting (hot, cold)
- 59. Nailing
- 60. Clenches and finish
- 61. Modern materials

Techniques and reasons

- 62. For clipping
- 63. For shaping
- 64. For boxing up
- 65. For clenching

Tools and materials

- 66. Tools
- 67. Use of welds, pins, plugs and studs
- 68. Pads

F. Professional ethics, health, safety and security

Professional practice according to local rules

- 69. Professional integrity
- 70. Ethics
- 71. Codes of conduct
- 72. Legislation
- 73. Insurance
- 74. Environment

Health

- 75. Ergonomics
- 76. Toxic products
- 77. Zoonoses (any bacterial, microbial or fungal infection that can translate from animal to human)
- 78. Tetanus and general infections

Safety requirements, personal and others

- 79. Personal protective equipment
- 80. Equipment, workshop, vehicle, materials and shoeing area
- 81. Storage
- 82. First aid

Risk-assessment

- 83. Risk agents and exposure
- 84. Hazards
- 85. Risks
- 86. Insurance (personal and professional)